

The laboratory-based techniques described above, in particular RFLP and SSR, are routinely used in such backcrosses to identify the progenies having the highest degree of genetic identity with the recurrent parent. This permits to accelerate the production of inbred maize lines having at least 90%, preferably at least 95%, more preferably at least 99% genetic identity with the recurrent parent, yet more preferably genetically identical to the recurrent parent, and further comprising the trait(s) introgressed from the donor parent. Such determination of genetic identity is based on molecular markers used in the laboratory-based techniques described above. Such molecular markers are for example those known in the art and described in Boppenmaier, et al., "Comparisons among strains of inbreds for RFLPs", Maize Genetics Cooperative Newsletter (1991) 65, pg. 90, or those available from the University of Missouri database and the Brookhaven laboratory database. The last backcross generation is then selfed to give pure breeding progeny for the gene(s) being transferred. The resulting plants have essentially all of the morphological and physiological characteristics of inbred maize line NP2052, in addition to the single gene trait(s) transferred to the inbred. Preferably, the resulting plants have all of the morphological and physiological characteristics of inbred maize line NP2052, in addition to the single gene trait(s) transferred to the inbred. The exact backcrossing protocol will depend on the trait being altered to determine an appropriate testing protocol. Although backcrossing methods are simplified when the trait being transferred is a dominant allele, a recessive allele may also be transferred. In this instance it may be necessary to introduce a test of the progeny to determine if the desired trait has been successfully transferred.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Specific transgenic events introgressed into maize inbred line NP2052 can be obtained through the list of Petitions of Nonregulated Status Granted by APHIS as of 10-12-2000. For example, introgressed from glyphosate tolerant event GA21 (9709901p), glyphosate tolerant/Lepidopteran insect resistant event MON 802 (9631701p), Lepidopteran insect resistant event DBT418 (9629101p), male sterile event MS3 (9522801p), Lepidopteran insect resistant event Bt11 (9519501p), phosphinothricin tolerant event B16 (9514501p), Lepidopteran insect resistant event MON 80100 (9509301p), phosphinothricin tolerant events T14, T25 (9435701p), Lepidopteran insect resistant event 176 (9431901p).

Please replace the first paragraph on page 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Applicants have made a deposit of at least 2500 seeds of Inbred Maize Line NP2052 with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Manassas, Virginia, 20110-2209 U.S.A., ATCC Deposit No: PTA-2660. This deposit of the Inbred Maize Line NP2052 will be maintained in the ATCC depository, which is a public depository, for a period of 30 years, or 5 years after the most recent request, or for the effective life of the patent, whichever is longer, and will be replaced if it becomes nonviable during that period. Additionally, Applicants have satisfied all the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.801-1.809, including providing an indication of the viability of the sample. Applicants impose no restrictions on the availability of the deposited material from the ATCC; however, Applicants have no authority to waive any restrictions imposed by law on the transfer of biological material or its transportation in commerce. Applicants do not waive any infringement of its rights granted under this patent or under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 USC 2321 et seq.).

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 20-22, 26-28, 32-34 and 42.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) Seed of Maize inbred line NP2052 having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-2660.
2. (Amended) A maize plant, or parts thereof, of inbred line NP2052, seed of said line having been deposited under ATCC Accession No. PTA-2660.
5. (Amended) An inbred maize plant, or parts thereof, having all the physiological and morphological characteristics of the plant according to claim 2.